



*Informing Professional Geologists
of the events and developments
that affect their profession*

In This Issue:

- 1 Message from the Chair
- 1 Officer Elections
- 2 Board Communications Initiative
- 2 Board Meetings
- 3 ASBOG Workshop
- 3 Fee Suspension And Rule Change
- 3 Welcome New Staff
- 4 New Licensees
- 5 Evaluation of Specialty Examinations
- 5 2008 Legislative Activity
- 5 Be a Subject Matter Expert
- 6 Summary of Disciplinary Cases
- 7 Geologist Licensing Board Statistics
- 7 Exam Calendar
- 7 Renew Your License Online
- 8 Are You Receiving the Latest News?

Your Board Members

Jeffery Randall, PhD, LG, LHG
Chair • *Preston*

Ron Teissere, LG
Vice Chair • *Olympia*

Richard Galster, LG, LEG
Secretary • *Edmonds*

Dawne Gardiska-Shepard
Public Member • *Olympia*

Reese Hastings, LG, LHG, JD
Member • *Bremerton*

William Laprade, LG, LEG
Member • *Seattle*

William Ernst, LG
Member • *Lakewood*

Staff

Joseph Vincent Jr.
Administrator

Lorin Doyle
Program Manager

Vacant
Administrative Assistant

Sabrina Jackson
Program Representative

Kezia Prater
Program Representative (Part-time)

Sherri Lonsbery
Management Analyst

Message from The Chair

Jeffery Randall, PhD, LEG, HG

On behalf of the entire Geologist Licensing Board, I want to personally thank the LHG and LEG specialists who participated in the job task analysis workshops and thank all who completed the associated survey as we update our two specialty examinations. We couldn't maintain – and wouldn't even have – the specialty exams without the strong interest and professional pride of the volunteers who helped with task analysis and exam development over the years. You have helped make our specialty licensing exams two of the best nationwide. THANK YOU!

The Board membership continues to evolve as the second terms of original Board members R. Scott Babcock and Reese Hastings came to an end May 1. Both Scott and Reese helped lay the strong foundation upon which future boards can build. Another original board member, Ron Teissere plans to retire this year as well. Looking to the future, the Board welcomes Will Ernst who has had a long career as an environmental manager at Boeing and replaces Scott. Welcome Will. Reese will continue to serve until a new member is appointed.

And finally, all good things must come to an end. The fee suspension of \$20 renewals and \$25 for each specialty will expire July 1, 2008. However the new fee suspension of \$70 renewal and \$70 for each specialty is still less than the full fees of \$100 renewal and \$85 for each specialty. More details are in the related article inside.

Officer Elections

Every March, the Geologist Licensing Board elects its officers. This spring the Board elected Jeff Randall to continue as chair, Ron Teissere to continue as vice-chair and Dick Galster to serve as secretary.

Administrative services are provided to the Board by the Department of Licensing. The Department and the Board have a policy of providing equal access to its services. If you need special accommodation, please call (360) 664-1497 or TTY (360) 664-8885.

Board Communications Initiative

Bill Laprade, LG, LEG & Dawne Gardiska-Shepard

The Geologist Licensing Board recognizes the confusion surrounding the roles of licensed geologists, engineering geologists, and hydrogeologists and has created a task force to address the issue. The task force, Board members Bill Laprade and Dawne Gardiska-Shepard, outlined a three-part approach to educate the public about the work geologists perform:

Educate the public by informing public officials:

The Board will have an information booth at conferences attended by public officials and staff. These conferences include the Washington Association of County Officials, Washington State Association of Counties, Association of Washington Cities, American Public Works Association, and International Conference of Building Officials. The Board would recruit volunteer geologists to staff the booth.

Educate the profession:

Board members will write an article to explain the roles and duties of licensed geologists and engineering geologists, and submit it to geologic societies and related fields, e.g., engineering and planning, for publication in their newsletters.

Educate the public and current and future licensed geologists:

Board staff will publish the newsletter article described above on the Department of Licensing Geologist Licensing Board website, and include links to other related societies, organizations, and licensing boards. Board staff will add the following questions and answers to the Q&A section of the website:

- Why would you hire a geologist?
- How do you hire a geologist?
- What to expect from a geologist, engineering geologist, and hydrogeologist?

The Geologist Licensing Board encourages your input and comments about these initiatives. And it most definitely will ask for your participation.



The Geologist Licensing Board newsletter is published twice a year. If you, or someone you know, would like to receive a copy of this publication, please contact us at:

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The information in the newsletter is being made available to you as a public service by the Washington Geologist Licensing Board and does not constitute legal or professional advice. Neither the Board, nor any agency, officer, or employee of the state of Washington, warrants the accuracy, reliability, or timeliness of any information in this newsletter. Any opinions expressed in the articles are those of each author. It is the responsibility of each licensee to know, and comply with the laws relating to Geologists.

BOARD MEETINGS

The Board holds four regular meetings a year, with special meetings as needed.

MARCH 11, 2008 – OLYMPIA, WA

JUNE 17, 2008 – OLYMPIA, WA

SEPTEMBER 9, 2008 – OLYMPIA, WA

DECEMBER 9, 2008 – OLYMPIA, WA

The 2009 meeting schedule will be determined at the December 2008 meeting.

You are invited to attend Board meetings and give Board members feedback on issues related to licensure. The meeting times and room locations can be found on the geologist website address at:

www.dol.wa.gov/business/geologist/

ASBOG Council of Examiners (COE) Workshop

Cody, Wyoming April 3-4, 2008

The Washington State Geologist Licensing Board sent two Board members to the National Association of State Boards of Geologist (ASBOG) Council of Examiners workshop to work with other state board representatives on improving the national examination for geologist licensure. ASBOG provides two examinations, one on the Fundamentals of Geology and the other on the Practice of Geology. The workshop was conducted under strict security and with the watchful assistance of ASBOG's two psychometricians, Drs. Jack and Steve Warner.

During the first day, workshop attendees (aka Subject Matter Experts – SMEs) reviewed the two examinations given in March 2008, including candidates' comments and statistics on each question. Based on consensus, some questions were not scored, some were double-keyed (determined to have 2 acceptable answers), and some were scored but revised for clarity for future examinations.

During the second day, the two examinations to be given in October 2008 were reviewed and revised as needed. Some questions were rewritten for clarity or accuracy and some were replaced with other questions based on a consensus of the SMEs.

This time and resource intensive process of reviewing and revising the examinations before and after they are given has been very effective in producing high quality and fair examinations of which we all can be proud.

Fee Suspension and Rule Change

The Department of Licensing has adopted the proposed change to the geologist licensing renewal fees, WAC 308-15-150. The change is a temporary partial reduction of annual renewal fees for geologist licensees. This change became effective July 1, 2008.

Why was this change necessary?

- In June 2001, the fees to renew the base geology license and each specialty were established at \$100 and \$85 respectively.

- In March 2006, renewal fees were temporarily suspended to \$20 for the geologist license and an additional \$25 for each specialty to better balance the costs of the geologist program with the fee supported fund balance. This suspension was effective March 1, 2006 through June 30, 2008.
- If the Department of Licensing had not changed the rule, the geologist renewals fees would have reverted to the established amounts of \$100 and \$85 per specialty as of July 1, 2008.
- The newly-adopted rule change stops the renewal fees from automatically reverting back to the full permanent renewal rate and adjusts the fees to keep the geologist program stable with an appropriate fund balance.
- The fees are \$70 for the geologist renewal and an additional \$70 for each specialty. These rates will be effective July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2011.
- Before the June 30, 2011 reversion date, the Board will again evaluate the fees to be sure the fund is responsibly managed.

How will I know what fee to pay?

Your next renewal notice will reflect the new renewal fee(s) you owe.

Welcome New Staff

The Geologist Licensing Board welcomes several new staff members.

Sabrina Jackson joined the staff in March as the new program representative. Sabrina worked with the business licensing section of the Department of Licensing and in private industry before joining our staff. In her off hours, she enjoys soccer and photography, and spending time with her family and friends. Sabrina is your primary contact for licensing and renewal questions.

Sabrina will work with Kezia Prater, who is transitioning from program representative to special project assignments. Kezia is originally from Louisiana and has lived in Washington on and off for 15 years. She worked full time with the program for almost six months before moving to part time to accommodate

See Staff on page 8

Congratulations!

The Board would like to welcome all new Washington State Geologist Licensees during the period of July 2007 to June 2008.

Examination Licensees

Amanda Rachel Balzer	Thomas W. Nanevicz	Ryan R. Reich
Ronald G. Colyer, Jr.	Kim N. Ninnemann	Steve J. Scharf
Trevor A. Contreras	Daniel Brian Palmiter	Jeffrey Martin Schwartz
Scott Michael Dobner	Simon John Payne	Stephen L. Slaughter
William Warren Dunbar	Hanxue Qiu	Stephen Michael Stacy
Bradly G. Gilmore	Matthew David Rarity	Eric L. Woods
Andrew L. Glandon	Michael G. Rasmussen	
Melissa S. Leone	Nels E. Reese	

Engineering Geologist Licensees

Andrew L. Glandon	Matthew Dennis O'Connor	David Loel Snyder
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Reciprocity Licensees

Richard Jack Allinger	James Lowell Cooper	Jordan Wyatt Nielsen
Roger L. Ames	David K. Dirkin	Matthew Dennis O'Connor
Kristeen Bennett	Steven John Dopp	Regan Louis Patton
Jennifer Ann Berry	Daniel A. Gamon	Catherine Jeanne Quinn
Stephanie Lynn Bosze	Stephen R. Henshaw	David Loel Snyder
Jerry L. Boyd	Robert Scott Jones	John Herbert Weakliem
Keri Lynn Chappell	Gordon G. Levin	David J. Wollney
John R. Cook	Alexander Lopez	Heidi W. Yantz

Evaluation of the Hydrogeology and Engineering Geology Specialty Examinations Underway

Psychometricians Dr. Norman Hertz and Roberta Chinn of Comira (formerly HZ Assessments Inc.) are currently under contract with the Board. These examination experts will assist in the validation and updating of the professional licensing examinations for both the Hydrogeology and Engineering Geology specialty licenses. They recently surveyed hydrogeologist licensees and are developing the new test specifications or “blueprint” for the exam – the content areas applicants will be tested on. Next steps will then involve a review and updating of the test questions based on the new test specifications.

Engineering geologists from both Washington and Oregon have been solicited to review the current task analysis for the engineering geology specialty exam through phone interviews and a 1-day workshop. An on-line survey of licensees about those tasks, or “knowledge areas” was conducted this spring.

Examinations are intended to ensure applicants have adequate knowledge and skills to be protective of public safety. These efforts to evaluate the examinations will result in sound, valid, and legally defensible examinations.

2008 Legislative Activity

HB 3198 / HB 3316 Regarding soil and wetland scientists.

These bills are similar with minor differences due to I-960. The bills define the regulation of the use of the titles of soil scientist and wetland scientist, as a profession, by adding a new chapter to Title 18 RCW. They establish a minimum standard of ethical conduct, professional responsibility, initial professional education and experience requirements, and renewal and continuing professional education requirements. The bills also establish an advisory committee to provide recommendations to the Geologist Board and the director concerning administration of this chapter by adding a new section to RCW 18.220. The program would operate under the Geologist account.

Current status: Neither bill received hearings this session. On February 18, 2008, at a House Commerce & Labor committee work session the committee

received a report on the Sunrise Review of Soil and Wetland Scientists. The Sunrise review, completed January 2008 by the Department of Licensing, recommended voluntary registration for the use of the titles of soil scientists and wetland scientists. Due to continued opposition, the committee recommended continued work on the bill is necessary. Stakeholders agreed and plan to work on the bill in the interim and have an amended proposal ready for 2009.

Be a Subject Matter Expert

Are you interested in helping develop the engineering geology and hydrogeology specialty exams? The Board occasionally recruits subject matter experts (SME) to participate in the following activities:

- Task analysis interview – a 1-hour phone interview about the duties unique to the specialty field
- Task analysis focus group – a 1-day workshop to review a list of tasks and knowledge gathered during the interview process
- Task analysis survey – a 30-minute survey, conducted either on-line or on paper, asking you to rate the frequency and importance of tasks associated with your specialty. The survey provides the blueprint for future exams. The Board requests all licensees participate in this phase of the exam development.
- Content Specifications Review – a 1-day workshop to review the ratings for the tasks, develop the content specifications, organize the tasks into major content domains and link the knowledge statements to the tasks in each domain
- Question development – a 1-day workshop where SMEs write exam questions. During question development, trained SMEs can submit exam questions both through the workshop and independently.
- Exam review – a 1-day workshop where SMEs take the exams, rank the questions for difficulty, evaluate the answers (both correct and incorrect) and determine a passing score
- Question bank review – a 1-day workshop to review existing questions and rewrite them as necessary

Summary of Disciplinary Cases

The Geologist Licensing Board regulates the profession of geology by investigating complaints of unprofessional conduct and incompetence against licensees, and issues of unlicensed practice. When a complaint is received by the Board, an initial investigation is started to gather information about the situation, and usually involves contact with the subject of the complaint (the respondent). A Board member is assigned as a case manager and serves as the technical expert. The investigation process can be lengthy and the case has several possible outcomes. The case may be closed by the Board with no further action if not enough evidence is found to support the complaint or the respondent quickly remedies the situation. For more serious issues, the Board may issue a statement of charges against the respondent, with sanctions for each offense. The respondent has an opportunity for a settlement conference to negotiate the sanctions or can ask for a hearing.

Current Cases:

Unlicensed practice.....	5
Incompetence.....	2
Unprofessional conduct	2
Total open cases:	9

Closed Cases

Case #2003-10-1100-00GEO An allegation of unlicensed practice was brought against Ervin Kraemer and the company Hydromeadows / NW Aquifer. The respondent failed to respond to the Board’s requests for information and charging documents were issued. The company then verified it had a licensed geologist under contract to review reports. The Board withdrew the charges on March 11, 2008.

Case #2005-08-1100-00GEO An allegation of unlicensed practice was brought against Christian Fromuth. After investigation, the case manager determined Mr. Fromuth’s company had licensed professionals on staff. The case was closed on December 11, 2007 with no further action.

Case #2005-12-1100-00GEO A licensee was alleged to have provided a poor report, causing a complaint of unprofessional conduct. The reviewing case manager determined the report in question was a preliminary document and the subsequent report addressed the issues in the initial complaint. In addition, the respondent acknowledged the Board’s publication “Guidelines for Preparing Engineering Geology Reports in Washington” and agreed to follow them for future documents. The case was closed on December 11, 2007 with no further action.

Case #2006-01-1100-00GEO An allegation of unprofessional conduct was brought against a licensee based on his application history. The case manager determined this was not a disciplinary issue but instead a request for further review of the respondent’s qualifications.

The case was closed on December 11, 2007 with no further action.

Case #2006-04-1100-00GEO A complaint was filed against a licensee, alleging unprofessional conduct due to non-payment of a loan. The respondent explained the situation was a personal loan and provided copies of the wire transfer repaying the complainant. It was determined this issue was outside of the jurisdiction of the Board and not subject to the disciplinary process. The case was closed on September 18, 2007 with no further action.

Case #2006-05-1102-00GEO A complaint was filed against a licensee, alleging unprofessional conduct due to a contractual dispute. This was a civil issue and outside of the jurisdiction of the Board. The case was closed on September 18, 2007 with no further action.

Case #2006-12-1100-00GEO An allegation of unprofessional conduct was brought against a licensee based on a written report. The case manager determined the respondent’s report was appropriate for its purpose, providing adequate and accurate detail as written communication between consultant and client, and the respondent used standard scientific methods in the work. The case was closed on September 18, 2007 with no further action for lack of violation.

Geologist Licensing Board Statistics

Licensing Activity for 7/1/07 to 6/30/2008

Licenses granted by Reciprocity.....	21
Licenses granted by ASBOG exam	22
Active Geology licenses	2323
Active Out-of-State Licenses.....	970
<i>(Includes Geology, Hydrogeology and Engineering Geology licenses)</i>	

Examination Statistics

SEPTEMBER 2007 EXAM

	Examinees	Passed	Failed
Fundamentals of Geology	21	14	7
Practice of Geology	21	16	5
Engineering Geology	1	1	0

MARCH 2008 EXAM

	Examinees	Passed	Failed
Fundamentals of Geology	18	15	3
Practice of Geology	8	7	1
Engineering Geology	2	2	0

EXAM CALENDAR

National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG) Fundamentals of Geology Practice of Geology

Exam Date March 6, 2009

Application deadline December 17, 2008

Exam Date October 2, 2009

Application deadline July 15, 2009

Engineering Geology Specialty Exam

Exam Date October 2, 2009

Application deadline July 15, 2009

Hydrogeology Specialty Exam

Exam Date July 10, 2009

Application deadline May 15, 2009

Renew Your License Online

It's easy with a credit card and your renewal notice! Your renewal notice includes the link to the renewal site and a password. Follow the directions online at <https://fortress.wa.gov/dol/solar/> and save time and postage.

Three things to remember:

1. Your renewal date is your birthday.
2. You can only renew online if your license is current.
3. If you've moved in the last year, contact our office at geologist@dol.wa.gov to update your record and make sure your renewal notice reaches you.

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Are You Receiving the Latest Licensing News?

In the near future, your profession's licensing related news will only be by e-communication. If you are not on the Geologist ListServ, please sign up today.

To join the ListServ, visit our web site: www.dol.wa.gov/business/geologist.

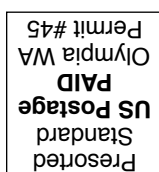
- Under "What's New", select "Join Mailing List"
- Select the ListServ® link
- Select the "Join or leave the list (or change settings)" link
- Enter your email address and name, then select the join list button
- You will be sent a confirmation email, and then you will be added to the broadcast list.

Staff

Continued from page 3

a teaching position. Kezia's a great addition to the program and we're happy to be able to keep her in a modified capacity.

In October, Sherri Lonsbery became our new management analyst. Before joining our programs, Sherri was the Professional Licensing Manager in the Public Protection Services Section with the Department of Licensing. She brings 7 years experience researching, interpreting and applying laws, rules, policies and procedures in her prior program, including legislative analysis, budget forecasting and working with the division's disciplinary process. She has worked directly with stakeholders for exam development, rule changes and implementing licensing changes. Sherri is the primary data resource for the Board, coordinating rule changes, working with the fees and budget, and assisting with the exam development.



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